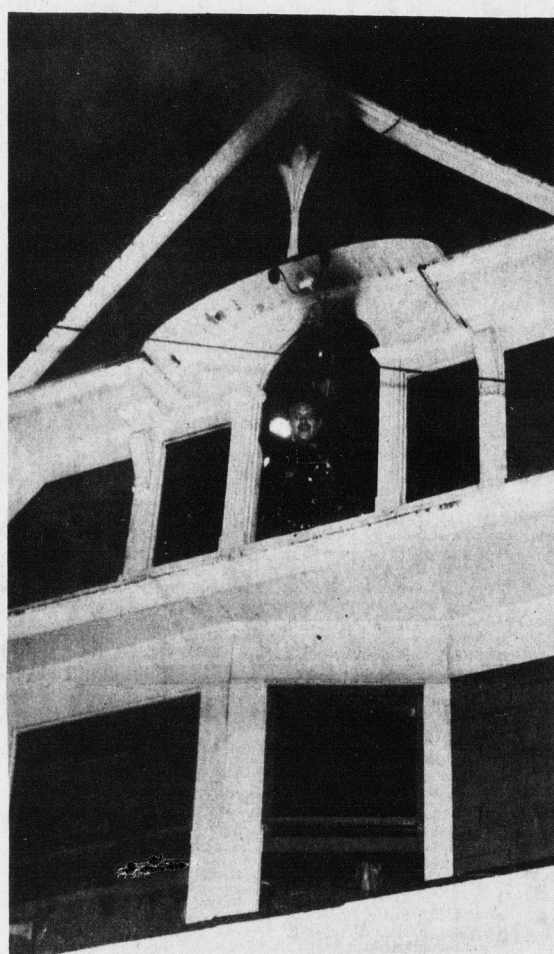
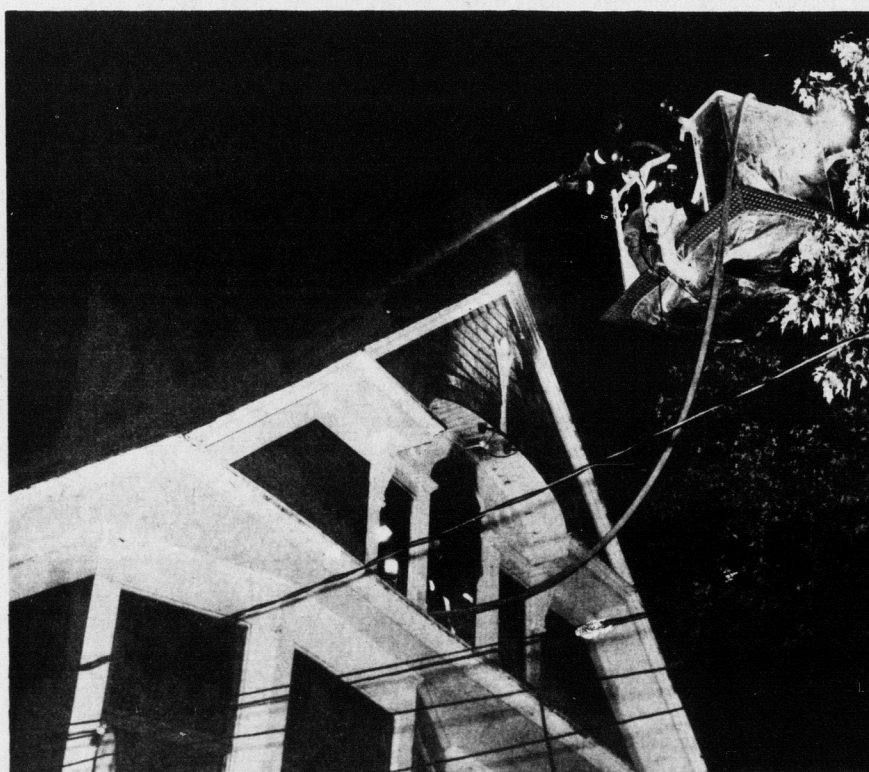


Fire again strikes school superintendent's home

Fire destroys city home Monday



City fireman breathes in fresh air after making way through Calabro home, 45 Garfield Ave., Carbondale, early Monday. Smoke from hole in attic wall pours out from above his head. See story at right. Additional fire and police reports can be found on page 3. (MIRROR photos by Al Daugevelo)



Firefighter David Jones directs water onto roof of Mrs. Judith Calabro's home at 45 Garfield Ave., Carbondale, early Monday.

For the second time in just over a year, a home of Carbondale Area Schools superintendent Judith Calabro was struck by fire.

The latest came early Monday when an alarm came in at 2:10 a.m.

City police received the initial alarm and turned in box 23 near the 45 Garfield Ave., Carbondale, home of the superintendent.

Responding were Truck 1, Truck 3, Engine 4, and Engine 2, driven by Francis Coleman, Tom Brennan, Joseph Burrell, Ed Gray, and David Jones.

Standing by during the fire were Engines 5 and 1.

The fire was sounded out at 4:53 a.m. Fire Chief William Burrell told the MIRROR that the home was fully engulfed when firefighters arrived on the scene.

He said that the fire had been burning for quite a while before the alarm was turned in.

The fire was confined mostly to the attic area of the East Side home.

Mrs. Calabro was out-of-town at the time of the fire, reportedly visiting the new home of a sister in Scranton.

A state fire marshal was on the scene around noon Monday, investigating the fire.

It was on June 14, 1980, that fire struck the Park Street home of Mrs. Calabro.

Carbondale city council concerned itself with a host of different matters Monday night, including PCB's, the dangerous cancer-causing agents, and mine fires.

The council, with all present, listened as Councilwoman Charlotte Moro told her fellow lawmakers that some residents are greatly concerned over the fact that old transformers are stored in an area off Dundell Street.

City managing director Martin P. Judge replied that the state's Department of Environmental Resources (DER) had been contacted about the situation about a month ago.

He added that he had heard nothing back from the state department.

Mrs. Moro said that a group of residents there were threatening to go to a local television station to have the problem aired.

Mine fire?

The East Side mine fire, located in Carbondale Township, but a threat to the city,

again surfaced at Monday night's council session.

Councilman Frank Greco sought an answer whether it would have been cheaper for the state to dig out the fire or to drill the borholes it did to determine if the fire had reached the mines dotting that area.

Told that it probably would have been cheaper to just dig it out, Greco was joined in his concern by Ed Krantz, a spectator, who questioned if council realized the actual seriousness of the problem.

Challenge PP&L

Councilman Albert Calzola asked Judge if the city were going to challenge the rate increases sought by Pennsylvania Power and Light Co. (PP&L).

He noted that he could not see the rate increase go unchallenged.

Judge said that he wanted to meet with the city solicitor on the matter.

Calzola also stressed that caution lights should be placed near the schools in the city.

He said he was told by PennDOT that it was the school district's responsibility.

Another matter of safety was voiced by Councilwoman Moro who requested that street lights be placed on the stretch of road between Brooklyn Street and the bridge leading to the Summit Gardens Complex.

Her request brought Judge's reply that PP&L is a saving word from Allied Services regarding the location of driveways on its proposed apartments along that road.

This reply brought some discussion about Allied's intentions since it has been nearly two years since Allied first took an option on the West Side land. From time to time, Allied has sought and received extensions from the solons.

Auditor general in

Councilman Michael Tolericco asked if there were any word from the auditor general regarding council's request for an investigation.

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PCB's, mine fires make up council's session

False alarm delays city firemen from fire

By PETE SMITH

Carbondale fire chief William Burrell issued a severe warning regarding false fire alarms following a nightmarish occurrence last Wednesday night when city firemen responded to a false alarm while a home across town burned.

While firemen responded to a reported fire at 31 Summit Ave., they received a simultaneous report from Lackawanna County Comm Center of a structure fire on Archbald Street. There was no fire at the Summit Avenue address and firetruck drivers had problems getting to Archbald Street where a fire was in progress.

When firefighters finally arrived, a good three minutes after they received the call, the home of Fred Tolericco, 97 Archbald St., was already totally engulfed. "When we arrived smoke was puffing out of the taxies," Chief Burrell told The Mirror Thursday.

"And it's a darn good thing that no one was in the home at the time of the fire, because they wouldn't be able to get out."

The nightmarish began to unfold for firemen at 9:02 p.m. when they received a call of a fire on Summit Ave. Carbondale Fire authorities noted that the caller sounded like a middle-aged woman. Once on the scene, firefighters received the Archbald Street fire call, which was officially logged in at 9:07 p.m.

That's when the problems really started. Due to the narrowness of the streets, fire-truck drivers Tom Brennan and Joe Burrell had trouble turning the trucks around. Then, one of the trucks split off to go up the

Eighth Avenue hill to Archbald Street and was greeted by a roadblock — a tractor-trailer blocking the hill after it had taken a wrong turn from Route 6.

Because of the false alarm and the tractor-trailer blocking the hill, it was a good three minutes before the trucks arrived at the scene of the fire. "The first three minutes of a fire are the most important," Chief Burrell said. And because the trucks were late due to the false alarm, Burrell feels the fire had a good start.

One of the problems firemen faced at the conflagration, was the tremendous heat. "The human lungs can withstand air temperatures up to 250 degrees," Burrell pointed out. "But I estimate that the temperature had to be 2,500 degrees in there." He added that firefighters at first donned air packs to go inside the modular home, but due to the high temperatures were forced to retreat.

To back up his statement Burrell related how, on his tour throughout the structure after the fire was out, he saw much evidence of the heat. A plastic stall was melted and twisted from the heat. Strips from between the ceiling tiles were dripping. The smoke detectors on the walls were hot enough to melt the mounds of plastic. "What the flames didn't damage, the heat did," Chief Burrell said.

The tremendous heat from the fire spurred Burrell to comment that anyone within the home would not have safely escaped.

First-arriving units to the fire scene found the flames in the rear of the home. Fire

damaged the kitchen and back porch area, and had made its way into the ceiling.

Twenty-two firefighters fought the blaze under Burrell's direction and were on the scene approximately three hours.

Cause of the fire is under investigation.

Meanwhile, Chief Burrell once again reiterated his stern warning about turning in a false fire alarm. "Calling in a false alarm or pulling a box for no reason ties up the fire apparatus and manpower. Then, what happened Wednesday night, takes place and the lives of the occupants as well as the firefighters responding are endangered."

"And all for the thrill of seeing the trucks roll."

False alarms have been high for this year, particularly for this quarter, according to the fire chief. "So far, this quarter alone, we have had 10 false alarms," he reported.

"That's not only high for a three month period, that's high for a full year."

Burrell's comment is supported every week in The Mirror's police docket. This week is no exception with two false alarms on Tuesday evening, one Wednesday evening, and another on Saturday morning. (See police docket.) However, false alarms at Carbondale General which come in frequently, are usually attributed to an overly-sensitive fire detector.

Chief Burrell in his stern reminder to city residents about false fire alarm reports, stressed that if anyone is caught turning in a false alarm, they will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

Modad Taxi Co. buys out Ashby Taxi firm's equipment

By NAN WATERS

Don't dial 282-1166 today to hail an Ashby Taxicab. The number won't answer.

Last Friday afternoon Robert R. Ashby, the owner of the two-year-old firm, sold his "rolling stock," (five cabs) and radio dispatching equipment to Modad Taxi Company of Carbondale for an undisclosed amount.

Ashby vehemently denied a rumor that he had also sold his Arco Service Station, at the Corner of Lincoln Avenue

and North Main Street in Carbondale to Charles Ulmer, who operates a gas station on Canaan Street.

In a telephone interview with the MIRROR late Sunday afternoon, Ashby, a resident of Pearl Street, and a Carbondale Area School Board director, explained that he is devoting time to refurbishing the Western Hotel, 7 Salem Avenue, the former Liberty Hotel, which he purchased some six months ago. That facility, Ashby said, houses a tavern and 18 upstairs rooms.

Ashby emphasized that he had not "sold out

his taxicab company," but that the Ashby firm had "gone out of business."

A spokesman for the James Gila family of Shamrock Avenue, Carbondale, which operates both the Modad firm and Carbondale Transfer, said they would continue operation of both companies. The Gilas bought out the existing taxi service in October, 1971, from the late Lewis Davis, consisting of the Modad company in business since 1924 and Carbondale Transfer, operating since 1948.

Vandals again strike city's Maplewood Cemetery

A shocking situation which has plagued area cemeteries from time to time has raised its ugly head once more in Carbondale.

Tougher vandals have again wreaked havoc on the Maplewood Cemetery, located along Cemetery Street in Carbondale.

Carbondale police told the MIRROR that a couple of fires have recently been set in the rear of the cemetery.

The police also reported that about a half dozen tombstones were toppled.

And, according to the caretaker, the office building was broken into.

The vandalism took place over a period of a week around the Labor Day weekend.

Police say the vandalism is caused by juveniles.

As a result, the city police department's

juvenile office is continuing the investigation. Patrolman Joseph Piskavag took the initial report.

In the past Maplewood Cemetery has seen vandals topple tombstones, throw garbage around, break stain glass windows on a crypt, and remove vault covers.

The cemetery has also been the scene of drinking parties by youth.